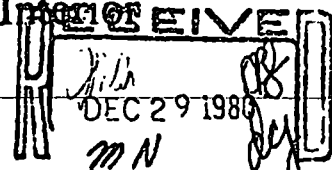




United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA. 22092



In Reply Refer To:
EGS-Mail Stop 650

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

DEC 15 1980

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary--Energy and Minerals

From: Director, Geological Survey.

Subject: Reclamation Plan of the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Complex,
Laguna Indian Pueblo Reservation, New Mexico

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SL

Date: 6/24/13

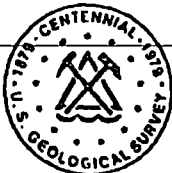
A meeting concerning the reclamation of the Jackpile-Paguate uranium mine complex was held on October 16, 1980, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Among those in attendance were Dick Wilson of your office and Barbara West, Office of Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs.

The meeting was held to consolidate a review of the subject reclamation plan by the Geological Survey (GS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Laguna Pueblo and their advisors. A list of those who attended the meeting is enclosed. This was the third in a lengthy schedule of meetings to provide coordination between the various parties concerned with reclamation of the mine site.

Following opening remarks by Governor Early of the Laguna Pueblo, the GS presented its review of the plan in the form of a draft letter to Anaconda requesting additional information. The GS's comments, 79 in number, were individually reviewed by the attendees, and additions and modifications were incorporated into the draft letter.

The specific comments fell into the following major categories:

1. Requests for the submission of the details of Anaconda's proposal.
2. Requests for technical justifications for the reclamation alternatives chosen by Anaconda.
3. Requests for a listing of the standards which will be used to judge reclamation success.
4. Requests for copies of the environmental and engineering studies performed by consultants to Anaconda.



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5. Requests for clarification of inconsistencies in the plan.

Secondly, there was a discussion of the principal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance alternatives for approval of the reclamation plan. These alternatives are:

1. Preparation of an environmental assessment supported by the necessary consultant reports.
2. Preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).
3. Preparation of an EIS with the declaration of "emergency circumstances" (40 CFR 1506.11).

The Laguna Tribal attendees showed considerable interest in Alternative No. 3. Although this alternative could allow the previously established, noncontroversial reclamation measures to be implemented during preparation of the EIS and, thereby, extend employment for the Laguna workforce, the institutional barriers to a finding of "emergency circumstances" are unclear and could result in significant time delays. We are presently considering the issue and a recommendation will forthcoming shortly.

Those in attendance were requested to submit written comments to the GS for consolidation into a response to Anaconda. A copy of that response is enclosed.

Doyle G. Frederick

POP

H. William Menard

Enclosures

cc: EGS General MS114
 Dir's Chron MS114
 MS171
 Dick Wilson, E&M Rm6640
 Barbara West, AS/IA Rm6352
 AS/IA Rm6352
 Director, BIA Rm4600
 Sandell, Mining-SCR
 Nelson, Mining-SCR
 Oden MS610
 CCampbell MS650
 CD File (DDC-ONS)
 Br. Rules & Procedures
 JDragonetti MS650
 BShoger MS650
 DDC-Ons
 Desk File (DDC-ONS) (Pending-JJD)

EGS:CD:MNelson:AB:11/05/80

Rewritten:JJDragonetti:dmp:12/8/80:860-7515 (Disk-Misc)

Retyped:dmp:12/11/80